

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A backpack attachment for use with backpacks that have a bag- like body (CS) and a pair of shoulder straps (T), in particular backpacks (Z) used by school attendants, being effective to distribute the backpack weight in a rationalized fashion across the user's shoulders, and characterized in that it comprises

two curved members (1) arranged to stiffen substantially the sections of the shoulder straps (T) that lie closest to the upper region of the bag-like body (CS).

2. The attachment of Claim 1, comprising two substantially inflexible curved members mounted in place of the closest sections of the shoulder straps (T) to the upper region of the bag-like body (CS).

3. The attachment of Claim 1, comprising two substantially inflexible curved members associated with the closest sections of the shoulder straps (T) to the upper region of the bag-like body (CS).

4. The attachment of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said substantially inflexible curved members (1) have their underside lined with a soft yielding material (3).

5. The attachment of Claims 1 to 4, consisting of a pair of substantially inflexible curved members (1), each as a one-piece construction (2,2A).

6. The attachment of Claims 1 to 4, comprising a pair of substantially inflexible curved members (1), wherein said curved members are made up of several pieces (6) jointed to one another.

7. The attachment of Claim 5, wherein said members (1) are of hollow construction and adapted to be slipped each over one of said shoulder straps (T).

8. The attachment of Claim 5, wherein said members (1) are hinge- connected to a holder (4), said holder being adapted to be affixed to the upper region of the bag-like body (CS) of the backpack (Z).

9. The attachment of Claim 6, having the members (1) made up of hollow pieces adapted to be slipped over said shoulder straps (T).

10. The attachment of Claim 6, wherein the leading one (7) of said hinge-connected pieces (6) in each member (1) can be affixed to the upper region of the bag-like body (CS) of the backpack (Z), with the trailing one carrying the shoulder strap (T) fastened thereto.

11. The attachment of Claim 6, wherein the leading one (9) of said hinge-connected pieces (6) in each member (1) can be affixed to the upper region of the bag-like body (CS) of the backpack (Z), with the shoulder strap (T) extending from said leading piece (9) through the other pieces (6) connected thereto.

12. The attachment of Claim 6, wherein the members (1) are made up of several shaped pieces (11), each adapted to be associated with the shoulder straps (T) in a detachable manner, at least one (14) in a lockable manner.

13. The attachment of Claim 12, wherein said leading pieces (11) of said members (1) can be associated with the shoulder straps by means of releasable hoops (12), the other piece (14) being associated with the shoulder straps by means of a releasable camlock device (15,16, 17).

14. The attachment of Claim 12, wherein a locking arrangement (19,20) intervenes between the jointed pieces (11) of each member for maintaining a set angle between individual ones of said pieces.

15. The attachment of Claims 12 and 13, WHEREIN said set angle between individual jointed pieces (11) of each member (1) is adjustable.

16. The attachment of Claims 12 to 14, wherein said locking arrangement (19,20) comprises, mounted on one side of each said jointed pieces (11), a gear wheel (19) and a lockable spring-biased slider (20), said slider being formed with an end jaw (21) adapted to engage with teeth of a gear wheel (19) on the adjacent one of said pieces.

17. The attachment of any of the preceding Claims, for use in a method of correcting abnormal curvatures of the spine.